

# THE FREE CITIZEN.

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## TIMELY TOPICS.

A RATHER heroic act is that of Spain, dying of interminable struggles, to go into the market for a loan of \$7,000,000 to indemnify Porto Rico for the loss of their emancipated slaves.

The yellow fever is at Pensacola. It is unusually early for this dreaded manifeftation. In some of the most devastating yellow fever seasons the disease has not shown itself on the gulf coast until September.

The plague, or Black Death, has twaked from its thirty years sleep in the east, and is reported to be spreading with rapidity in Asia. About eighty-five years ago, it desolated Russia, and one hundred and fifty years have passed since it ravaged and almost depopulated some parts of Europe.

For young children New York is at present one of the deadliest cities; at no time do they thrive there overmuch, but last week's mortality among them was exceptionally great. Under five years of age they died at the rate of eighty-six per cent, the main trouble being diarrhoeal disease.

The postoffice department has sent to the department of justice the names of thirty-nine mail contractors who are to be prosecuted for failure to perform service after their bids were accepted. The contracts were relet by the government, and the difference between the amount paid and the bids, for the thirty-nine routes, was \$117,087, which is the amount of damages claimed against the delinquent bidders.

The German minister of finance reports a deficiency in the Budget for this year of \$5,000,000, and the tax on beer is to be raised—a proceeding which will be immensely unpopular in Germany, where everybody consumes largely of the ruby liquid. Such a large deficiency as \$5,000,000 would seem singular, with the millions which have been paid by France, were it not apparent that Germany has been putting all her money into her army.

The Boston Journal of Chemistry regrets that the millers use all their finest, soundest wheat for fine flour, and the poorest for Graham or brown bread, a general name given to mixtures of bran and spoiled flour. "What we need is good, sweet, whole wheat flour finely ground, and put up securely for family use, and any western miller who will give his earnest attention to furnishing such flour will realize a fortune speedily; securing the most nutritive principles the Creator has stored up for man's food."

The substance of Jno. D. Lee's confession is that thirty Mormons, with the assistance of a large number of Indians, decoyed emigrants from their entrenchment by a flag of truce; that all were murdered except seventeen children; that the deed was done under orders of the leaders of the Mormon Church; that he took news of the massacre to Brigham Young, who deplored the transaction, and said it would bring disaster upon the Mormon people. The statement of Lee, so far as known, only confirms previous reports in regard to the massacre.

Since the first of June, wheat has advanced thirty-three cents in the Chicago market. If the reports at hand are reliable, the wheat crop of Europe will be almost an entire failure, and consequently the demand upon our products will be unprecedented. This will ensure the producer good paying prices for the products of his farm for at least a year to come. While Great Britain and the continent may suffer, the people of America will be greatly benefited. Just when the advance in prices will cease it would be hazardous to predict.

The clerical newspapers in France speculate on the causes of the great flood with some asperity. It appears that the municipal council of Toulouse recently refused to erect a statue to "the glorious and miraculous shepherdess of Pibrac," and one of the councilors said, "We prefer a fountain." Whereupon the Gazette de Nimes now remarks, "God has fulfilled the wish of these honorable councilors and sent a fountain to the capital of Languedoc which they little expected. Had the town voted the required sum Divine Providence," says the editor, "would never have treated Toulouse so severely." It is understood that the bishop of Chartres is of the same opinion.

The committee appointed by the Delaware Fruit Growers' convention to confer with the steamship companies in regard to the shipment of peaches to Liverpool have reported that they called

upon the authorities of the American steamship company, and they favored the project. The company would allow the growers to fit up the steerage forward cabin with their refrigerators, which can be done with five hundred dollars for each vessel. This portion of the ship would hold 25,000 or 30,000 baskets, and a compartment immediately underneath could be fitted up which would carry 6,000 additional. They would charge the growers for the shipment of this amount of fruit to Liverpool about two thousand dollars, and give them the privilege of sending out an agent free of charge with each consignment.

The July returns to the department of agriculture shows that the acreage in corn is about three per cent. greater than last year. New England has increased her acreage about eleven per cent, and the Pacific states about one per cent. All the great corn growing regions have increased acreage—Middle states two per cent., South Atlantic states three per cent. Gulf states, inland southern states, twelve per cent., states north of Ohio seven, west of the Mississippi fourteen per cent. The condition of the crop is below an average in the New England and South Atlantic states. The minimum condition, eighty-two per cent., being in Rhode Island, Florida and Alabama are also below the average, but other Gulf states and inland southern states are about the maximum, 112 in Mississippi. All other states except Missouri, 103 are below the average, the minimum eighty-two being in Wisconsin.

THAT most insufferable of all idiots, the practical joker, does not always escape on earth the wrath that is laid up for him. There lived and taught school in St. James parish, Louisiana, recently, a man by the name of Bowden, a well-meaning person, but afflicted with that peculiar sense of humor which is sure to get somebody or other into trouble sooner or later. One of his most successful jokes was that of depriving advertising bills printed in imitation of greenbacks, and offering to bet hundreds and thousands of dollars with people who didn't know that he was fooling. The other day an offensive smell coming from an out-house led to a search for the cause, and the corpse of Bowden was found beneath the floor and under a covering of corn husks, where it was rapidly decaying. A Swedish plantation hand, who had seen him displaying his imitation bills, had mistaken him for a person of large and available means, and had murdered him for his money. The Swede is now a fugitive, and he feels doubly the weight of the joke, for he got no money, and the Governor has offered \$1,000 for his arrest.

PROF. DONALDSON, the aeronaut, who has been traveling in company with Barnum's Hippodrome, and making balloon ascensions after the conclusion of the afternoon performances, made his second trip from Chicago on the 15th, accompanied by Mr. Newton S. Grinnwood, a reporter of the Chicago Journal. After ascending into the air the balloon took a northerly course, sailing over the lake in the direction of Muskegon, Mich. About seven o'clock in the evening it was sighted by a schooner about thirty miles northeast of Chicago, at which time the balloon was skimming the surface of the lake. The schooner followed after it until it was observed to rise suddenly into the air, when the chase was given up. A very severe gale occurred on the lake about midnight, and, as no further tidings had been received in Chicago from the balloon or its occupants up to the morning of the 17th, grave apprehensions were felt for their safety. It was the opinion of experts that the balloon could not possibly have reached the Michigan shore before the storm burst upon it, and that the aeronauts perished in the lake. It is said by some that the balloon was a rotten, patched up affair.

—An Englishman—traveled, of course—relates that an American gentleman who had at an early age gone the overland route to California, told him this: We crossed the sandhills near the scene of the Indian mail robbery and massacre of 1856, wherein the driver and conductor perished, and also all the passengers but one. But this must have been a mistake, for at different times afterward on the Pacific coast, I was personally acquainted with one hundred and thirty-three or four people who were wounded during that massacre and barely escaped with their lives. There was no doubt of the truth of it; I had it from their own lips. And one of the parties told me that he kept coming across arrow heads in his system for nearly seven years after the massacre.

TO HOPE.  
O Hope! I implore,  
Decide me that I may believe thee;  
For I know that the duke will follow  
On the airy way of the swallow.  
That the drift must lie where the lily blows  
And the jule hang from the stem of the rose,—  
O Hope!—no more!  
O Hope! yet awake!  
Receive me and I will believe thee,  
Though I know that the duke must follow  
On the airy way of the swallow.  
That the drift must lie where the lily blows  
And the jule hang from the stem of the rose,—  
O Hope!—no more!  
—John Vance Cheney.

## MOUNTAIN MEADOW MASSACRE.

Testimony Elucidates the First Day of the Trist—How the Butcher was Planned and Executed.

At the opening of the trial of the Mormons implicated in the Mountain Meadow massacre, at Beaver, Utah, Robert Kays testified as follows: Came to Utah October 2, 1857, through Mountain Meadows saw piles of bodies of woman and children, piled promiscuously; there were sixty or seventy bodies; the children were from two months old to twelve years; the smaller were torn by wolves and crows; some of the bodies were shot, some had their throats cut, some stabbed, and all were torn by wolves except one woman, who laid a little way off, and appeared as if asleep, a ball hole in her left side; it appeared the bodies were dead fifteen days; seven of us saw it. Piles of men's bodies were further on; didn't go to see them; no clothing on the bodies, except one sock on the leg of one man; none were scalped.

Assattel Bennett called: Was at the Meadows December, 1857; saw the bones there; horrible sight; skeletons of women and children; curls, long tresses hair, dried blood; children 10 to 12 years; some skulls had flesh dried on; the bodies had been covered up; wolves evidently dug them up.

Phillip Linger Smith, a defendant of San Bernandi, California, called: Prosecution entered nolle prosequi as to himself. Lived in Cedar city from 1852 to 1857. Was at the massacre in September, 1857; heard of the emigrants coming. The people were forbidden to trade with them; felt bad about it; saw a few of them at Cedar; heard rumors of trouble 8 days. It was the custom to have meetings of the president and council, bishop and council and high council. The matter came up for discussion as to their destruction. Haight, Higbee, Morrill, Allen, Adams, Hysed, and others were there. Some brethren opposed their destruction. I did. Haight jumped up and broke up the meeting. I asked what would be the consequences of such an act. Then Haight got mad. The Indians were to destroy them. On Monday, Higbee, White and I met; same subject again. I opposed the destruction. Haight relented, and told White and I to go ahead and tell the people the emigrants should go through safe. We did so, and on the road we met John D. Lee. We told where we were going, and he replied I have something to say about that matter; we passed the emigrants at Iron Springs; next morning we passed them again; as we came back they had twenty or thirty wagons; over a hundred people, old men, middle aged men, old women, middle aged women, youths and children; near home I met Ira Allen; he said the emigrants' doom was sealed, the die cast for destruction; three days after Haight sent for me, and said orders had come from camp; didn't get along, wanted reinforcements; that he had been to Provo, and got further orders from Colonel W. H. Dame to finish the massacre, to decoy and spare only small children who could not tell the tale. I went off, met Allen, our first runner, and others. Higbee said: you are ordered out, armed and equipped; so I went; Hopkins, Higbee, John Willis and Sam Purdy went along; had two baggage wagons; got to Hamplens' ranche in the night, three miles from emigrants; there met Lee and others from the general camp, where the largest number of men were; then found the emigrants not all killed. Bateman or Lee went out with a white flag. A man from the emigrants met them. Lee and a man set down on the grass and had a talk; don't know what they talked. Lee went with the man into the intrenchments. After some hours they came out and the emigrants came out with their wounded in wagons ahead. The wounded were those hurt in the three days previous fight. Next came the women, next the men. As the emigrants came up the men halted, and the women on foot and children and wounded went on ahead with John D. Lee. The soldiers had to be all ready to shoot at the word. When the word halt came the soldiers fired. I fired once; don't know if I killed a man; not all killed at the first fire. Saw the women afterward dead, with their throats cut. I saw, as I came up to them, a man kill a young girl. The men were marched in double file first, then thrown in single file, with the soldiers along side. The emigrants were congratulating themselves on their safety from the Indians. At last John M. Higbee came and ordered my squad to fire. Lee, like the rest, had firearms. No emigrants were allowed to escape; saw soldiers on horses to take on wing those who ran; saw a man run; saw Bill start on a horse and kill him, and a wounded man beg for life. Higbee cut his throat. I was told to gather up the little children. I went, and saw a woman running toward the men, crying, "My husband, my husband!" A soldier shot her in the back, and she fell dead.

—A bell at Saratoga wears diamonds on her sides.

## Post Office Points.

The following late rulings by the postoffice department in regard to mail matter will be found of interest to every one engaged in mercantile pursuits.

When packages of merchandise or samples of merchandise are wrapped so as to prevent examination, or have any writing upon them except the address, it is the duty of the postmaster to rate them up with letter postage, to be collected on delivery. Samples may be marked in pencil or ink with letters or figures by which they are to be distinguished, but in a descriptive letter or invoice (each separately) without subjecting the package to letter postage.

An address may be written on a circular, but any other writing thereon except the mere correction of a typographical error, would render it subject to letter postage.

It is the duty of a postmaster when mail matter is sent to his office through mistake, to forward it to its destination. Book manuscript, when so wrapped as to admit of examination, is chargeable with prepayment of postage at rates of third-class matter, viz: one cent an ounce or fraction thereof, limited to four pounds in weight.

Paper with writing on it, should not be used as wrappers for newspapers, as this would subject the packages to letter postage.

To entitle regular subscribers to receive newspapers free of postage, they must reside in the county where such papers are printed and published.

Mail matter inclosed in sealed envelopes with the corners notched, is subject to letter rates of postage.

A postmaster is required to examine all printed matter, or third-class matter, passing through his office, to see that it is charged with proper rates of postage and to detect fraud. Matter contained in a sealed envelope notched at the corners cannot be satisfactorily examined without destroying the wrapper.

Prepaid letters must be forwarded from one postoffice to another at the request of the party addressed without additional charge of postage; but letters having been once delivered according to their address require postage at the prepaid rate when returned to the office for forwarding.

Packages containing liquids, or any other matter liable to deface or destroy the contents of the mails, or hurt the person of any one connected with the service, should be excluded from the mails. Sealed packages deposited in postage, in the absence of any positive knowledge of their contents, forwarded to their destination.

Unsealed circulars deposited in a letter-carrier office for local delivery through the box or general delivery, or by carriers, are subject to a postage of one cent each circular, to be prepaid by stamp affixed. L. and R., page 61, sec. 99.

## Burning of a Russian Town—200 Lives Lost.

A Petersburg letter to the London Standard says:

The fire which destroyed the town of Morschansk began about 4 o'clock in the afternoon in one of the fauburges, at a distance of nearly half a mile from the town proper, and within a few hours the whole town, over an extent of five versts, was a prey of the flames in all directions, causing them to overlap all the open squares and even the river.

As the fire grew the wind became a tempest, and enormous planks and sheets of iron, torn from the falling houses, were hurled as high as the second story of houses still standing. Cases of goods allowed to float along the river were burned on the water. Some of the papers of the public offices have been found at a distance of sixty versts from the town, and the glow of the fire lighted up the horizon to a distance of ninety versts. The fire spared about a hundred wooden houses at one end of the town, but of the brick buildings hardly ten have escaped.

All the public edifices, with the exception of the school and several of the churches, have been destroyed. The destruction of property has been entire. Many of the inhabitants trusted to cellars and vaults, but they nearly all fell. As the fire spread, furniture and other effects were removed to gardens and other open spaces, but in vain; the flames soon reached them and reduced all to ashes. Only one of the corn depots was saved.

It is calculated that 1,000 buildings have been burned, and that the loss cannot be less than 5,000,000 roubles. About 200 lives were lost, and several thousand persons were wounded.

Since, in the shape of provisions, clothes, and money, was instantly forwarded from Tamboff, Riazan, and other places, to the unfortunate citizens of Morschansk, literally wandering about the woods or sheltering under carts, having lost everything, and the number of the homeless and destitute exceeded 10,000. Three days after the fire the corporation of the town petitioned the government for a loan of 3,000,000 roubles, to be redeemed in thirty days.

## ENGLAND'S NEW RIVAL.

Rapid Development of Cotton Manufacture in India.

The manufacture of cotton is rapidly increasing in British India, and as considerable profits are realized, the tendency is toward continued investments and the extension of this great industry. It is now manifest that Manchester has lost its former control of the cotton markets. In the single presidency of Bombay there are twenty-five cotton mills in full operation, working 600,000 spindles and 7,000 looms. The spindles produce about 130,000 pounds

of cotton thread a day, of which about 50,000 pounds are used to produce cloth. These mills are chiefly in the Bombay Island, where a new spinning mill, just opened by a wealthy Hindoo, and working 25,000 spindles, makes a total of seventeen working mills. Up country there are several others—one at Surat, two at Broach, two at Ahmedabad, one at Julmagum, one in the native state of Bhavnagar, and one at Madras. Extensions are also rapidly going forward. Eight extensions are in course of construction at Bombay, chiefly on share capital, and these will provide at least for the working of 40,000 more spindles and 1,345 looms. The machinery is always of the very newest and most approved construction, and no efforts are spared on the part of the Indian producers to enable their goods to compete successfully with the choicest products of foreign manufacture.—United States Economist.

## An Incident of the Floods.

Writing of the disasters of the inundations in France, a correspondent says: At St. Cyprien, the suburb of Toulouse, which suffered so severely, M. Maurette, a well-known sculptor who resided there, but who had his atelier in the town, was at work in the latter, when he was informed of the risk to which his family, whom he had left in the faubourg, were exposed. He immediately hastened home, and began to pack up his valuables and prepare to retreat with his wife, two girls, eight and nine years old, and a little boy in his mother's arms. But the flood had been too quick for them. In less than a quarter of an hour it had risen more than four feet, and their house was surrounded before they were aware of it. As the water rose higher and higher they moved from stage to stage, until they reached the roof along with other families who had taken refuge there. Thus they stood, the father holding his two little girls by the hand, the mother carrying her boy, till darkness set in, the flood still rising, and the houses around them giving away before it one after the other with fearful crash. At last their own house began to totter and crack, and give other signs that it was no longer a safe place of refuge. Another house at some little distance off seemed to offer a stouter resistance, and one of their party, who was a good swimmer, threw himself into the water, and by great effort succeeded in climbing on to the other roof. Unfortunately, in taking his spring from that on which he had reached, he fell back, and down M. Maurette, wife, and boy, fell his arms, and although the former was laid hold of and rescued, the child was carried away by the flood, and perished before the eyes of its father, who could only just save his fainting wife. By good luck, in the house to which their companion had escaped a roll of calico twenty-five yards long was found. On one end of this an iron was tied, and, after many attempts, swung across, and a communication thus opened with the other house. The two little girls were successfully made fast to the end of the roll and dragged through the water. M. Maurette was next tied to it and had also nearly gained the other roof, when the strength of those who supported her failed, and she fell back into the water. For a moment she seemed lost, but her husband, throwing himself in, in his turn, and swimming to her, supported her until a fresh effort could be made above, when both were eventually hoisted up. The night was passed in cold and wet, expecting death almost hourly. But the house resisted, and by morning the water had fallen sufficiently to enable the party to wade ashore.

## Rather a Tough Snake Fight, but a Good Story.

A few days since, while a young man of the vicinity of Middle Grove, whom we shall designate as James, was shrubbing in the field, he ran upon a black snake in a cluster of bushes, and, calling his dog Zip, set him after the snake. While he was intently watching the progress of the fight between his snakyship and his favorite canine, something behind took him "whack" upon the seat of his trousers, and turning quickly, he discovered to his horror a tremendous horse racer, full six feet in length, with head erect, hissing tongue and glaring eyes, curling himself in the fullest attitude for battle, and before James could comprehend the terrible character of the situation, "whack" the snake took him again. He then looked for a stick, but there was none at hand. He then drew his jack-knife, with the determination of selling his life as dearly as possible, and the most terrible battle between man and snake then occurred that has ever transpired in the history of Monroe county. The snake was very strong and active, and, curling himself around one of his victim's legs, he stuck his terrible fangs into him with marvellous rapidity, tightening his hold and crawling up all the time, while James plied his jack-knife with a rapidity never equaled by the savage Moleck. The snake was getting the best of it, and had twisted himself up nearly to James' face, and was about to coil his slimy length about his struggling antagonist's swan-like throat, when Zip, the faithful servant, having finished snake No. 1, came yelping to the rescue, and, taking in at a glance the hazardous position of the master, he sprang and grappled the monster by the neck, and held on with a vice-like grip until James, by the use of his knife, extricated himself from his terrible predicament, and from an untimely and premature grave. The snake was killed, and the faithful dog was the life-preserver of his master.—From the Paris Mon. Appeal.

## FACTS AND FANCIES.

—The coffee-planters of Ceylon are threatened with pecuniary ruin, the rats having seized their plantations, grasshopper style. Not being able to import American muslin, they are trying to frighten off the invaders with the tom-tom, a home instrument.

—There is an English paper which thinks that in case of war the chief food producing nations, by combining against England, could conquer her without firing a shot or landing a soldier by simply declining to deal with her.

—The old superstitious idea that the hand of a dead man is a talisman against evil, once prevalent among southern negroes, seems not to have died out. A vault in Greenville, Miss., was recently broken open and a hand cut from a corpse.

—On one of the bridges of Paris a baby sprang out of its mother's arms and fell in the river, and the mother jumped after it, but could not swim. Another woman jumped in who could swim and brought out both. The mother was half drowned and the baby was dead.

—Some of the clergymen in Kentucky propose to hang slates in the church vestibules, so that young ladies on entering, can register their names, thus saving a great expense for providing seats in the vestibule for young men, and making a great deal of waiting unnecessary.

—"James Brown," of St. Giles, London, claims to be reckoned among the noble band of vivisectionists, his trade being the catching of cats and "skinning 'em alive." "The simple fact is," he says, "I got an honest living by skinning cats, and because skins taken from the live cats are worth sixpence apiece more than those taken from the animal when dead I skin the cats alive whenever I can."

—If there is a manufacturing city on this continent which might be called the Manchester of America, it is Lowell, Mass. There are daily employed nearly eighteen thousand operatives in the various mills. The capital stock of the several corporations is over \$16,000,000, while the total valuation would foot up six times sixteen millions. In many instances the original stockholders have, perhaps, more than doubled their investments by magnificent dividends; and it is a notable fact that even in these depressed times dividends are not far behind.

—This is what a bank cashier wrote to Washington when he wanted "registered bonds": "I may not have expressed myself properly, not knowing much about this business of swopping bonds, but my intentions are pure and innocent. I wish to have these bonds in such a condition that when burglars come to my room at midnight, put a pistol to my head, twist my nose, take me by the ear, lead me to my bank, compel me to unlock my safe, I can contemplate the removal of my bonds with a smile that is child-like and bland."

—The work of excavating the arena of the coliseum at Rome, has been suspended since May, as it cannot be proceeded with until the discovery of the duct or canal used by the old Romans to drain off the water collecting from the adjacent slopes. The canal has been traced in its starting point near the ruins, and in its passage through the forum, leading into the Cloaca Maxima; but its intermediate course has yet to be unearthed, which operation, together with its proper cleaning and repairs, will be a job of some difficulty, time and expense. In the meantime the excavation in the coliseum already made, will have to be kept dry, or as free from water as possible, in order that the foundation of the building may not be seriously damaged.

—A popular theatrical manager says he has been the means of keeping between two and three hundred young ladies off the stage within the space of five years. "One reason was," said he, "because they had no talent, and another was because I knew that before they had been in the profession many weeks they would be heartily sick and tired of it. The life of an actor is a hard one. People come," said he, "and see the actor walking around the stage, speaking a few lines, dressed in magnificent clothes, and winning the applause of the multitude. 'How delightful!' they exclaim. 'Nothing in the world to do but to dress well and look pretty.' They do not know what a dog's life it is. And traveling through the country is the hardest work of all. Out till twelve and one o'clock at night, and out of bed by four or five in the morning to take an early train to the next town. Sometimes they do not get to bed at all."

THAT SAVED HIM.—It has been generally supposed that a bald head was of no account, even to the owner, but the Vicksburg stands up and remarks to the contrary. The other day a resident of this city went up to Thompson's Lake to get a shot at the big alligator, and while eating a cold bite in the shade a man jumped over the fence, presented an old army musket at his head and cried out:

"Stranger, unkniver yer head!" The Vicksburger was dumfounded, but made haste to remove his hat and exhibit a pate which shone like a newly polished pillow.

"Stranger, that saves ye!" continued the man, as he shouldered his musket; "I thought ye was the red-headed pest after who chased my wife a wildfowl after for a testament which hasn't got a darned picture in it!"